Setting up of Special Economic Zones

†5228. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up Special Economic Zones in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons behind setting up such Zones;

(c) whether any decisions has also been taken with regard to the number thereof;

(d) if so, how many; and

(e) whether such Zones will be set up in each State of the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (e) Government has announced a Policy for setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the country for promotion of exports. SEZ can be set up in the public, private, joint sector or by the State Governments. There is no proposal to set up any new SEZ by the Central Government. However, some of the existing Export Processing Zones are proposed to be converted into SEZs.

Disinvestment Target

5229. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the disinvestment target fixed upto 1999-2000 and the achievement made, so far;

(b) the future course of action in this regard;

(c) the plans of Government regarding disinvestment of the "Navaratnas"; and

(d) when would the formulation of the new, disinvestment commission be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The targets set and achievements in respect of disinvestment proceeds since 1991-92 are as follows:—

†Original notice of the Question was revceived in Hindi.

Year	Targets	Achievements (Rupees in Crores)
1991-92	2500	3,038
1992-93	2500	1,913
1993-94	3500	Nil
1994-95	4000	4,843
1995-96	7000	362
1996-97	5000	380
1997-98	4800	902
1998-99	5000	5,371
1999-2000	10000	1,585
		18,394

(b) A target of Rs. 10,000 crores has been set for the year 2000-2001.

(c) Disinvestment is done as per policy to disinvest upto 74% equity or below in non-strategic PSUs. It is not based on the Status of the PSE as "Navratna" or otherwise.

(d) The Disinvestment Commission is being reconstituted.

Utilisation of Disinvestment Fund

5230. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the various seminars and discussions organised throughout the country from time to time on the disinvestment process all of which expressed the view that the sell off funds out of disinvestment should be exclusively utilised to retire public debt;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government would issue necessary instructions to this effect so that no part of the disinvestment money is funneled into public exchequer and used for meeting the public expenditure; and